Vacant Posts of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in Courts

2624. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reserved posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in the Supreme Court and various High Courts;

(b) the number of posts filled up during the last three months; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill up the remaining posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS COMPANY AFFAIRS THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c). Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are made in terms of relevant provisions of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. As such the questions of vacancy against or filling up of reserved posts do not arise.

[*English*]

Closure of Powerlooms

2625. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of different varieties of cotton have increased during the post few months;

(b) if so, whether a large number of powerlooms are facing closure due to this unprecedented rise in cotton prices;

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to save the powerlooms from closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are reports of reduction in the scale of activities of power looms in certain pockets of powerloom concentration due to increase in the prices of yarn.

(c) and (d). Government has taken a number of corrective measures including suspending export of cotton yarn and by pursuading the spinning mills in the cooperative, private and State sectors to supply yarn to handloom and powerloom weavers at pre-budget prices. Government is following a cautious policy on the export of cotton during 1991-92 cotton season so that adequate raw material is available to the handloom and powerloom weavers are reasonable prices.

Fire in Sena Bhawan

2626. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.670 on July 26, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the Court of Inquiry set up to investigate the causes of fire in Sena Bhawan has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings of the inquiry;

(c) the extent of damage caused due to fire; and

(d) the measures taken to prevent such fires in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fire may have been caused by an electrical short circuit or a cigarette butt. Possibility of sabotage is ruled out.

(c) The total damage has been estimated as Rs. 4 lakhs.

(d) Following measures have been recommended:

(i) Provisioning of 'Wet-Riser with Sump' and fire detection & alarm system;

(ii) Thorough review of electrical wiring system and replacement of aluminium wiring by copper wiring in critical areas;

(iii) provision on exclusive space for storage of combustible material; and

(iv) Establishing adequate and modern facility for burning of waste-paper.

Loans to youth under SEEUY Scheme In Andhra Pradesh

2627. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans given by the public sector banks to unemployed youth and persons living below the poverty line under the self employment schemes in Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend this facility to more applicants during 1992-93; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Scheme of Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) are the major programmes under which the commercial banks provide loans to unemployed youth and persons living below poverty line to take up viable self-employment ventures. The amount of loans sanctioned by the banks under SEEUY in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 are given in the statement attached. For IRDP, the similar district-wise figures are not available. However, the amount of loans provided under IRDP during the last three years in the State of Andhra Pradesh is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	*Loan disbursed*
1988-89	10035
1989-90	9173
1990-91	10528

(b) and (c). The targets for Andhra Pradesh during 1991-92 are to cover 9500 beneficiaries under SEEUY Scheme and 165680 families under IKDP Scheme. The State-wise targets for 1992-93 for the two Schemes, have not been finalised.